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(54) **ORAL FORMULATIONS OF CLADRIBINE**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **514/46, 514/58**

See application file for complete search history.

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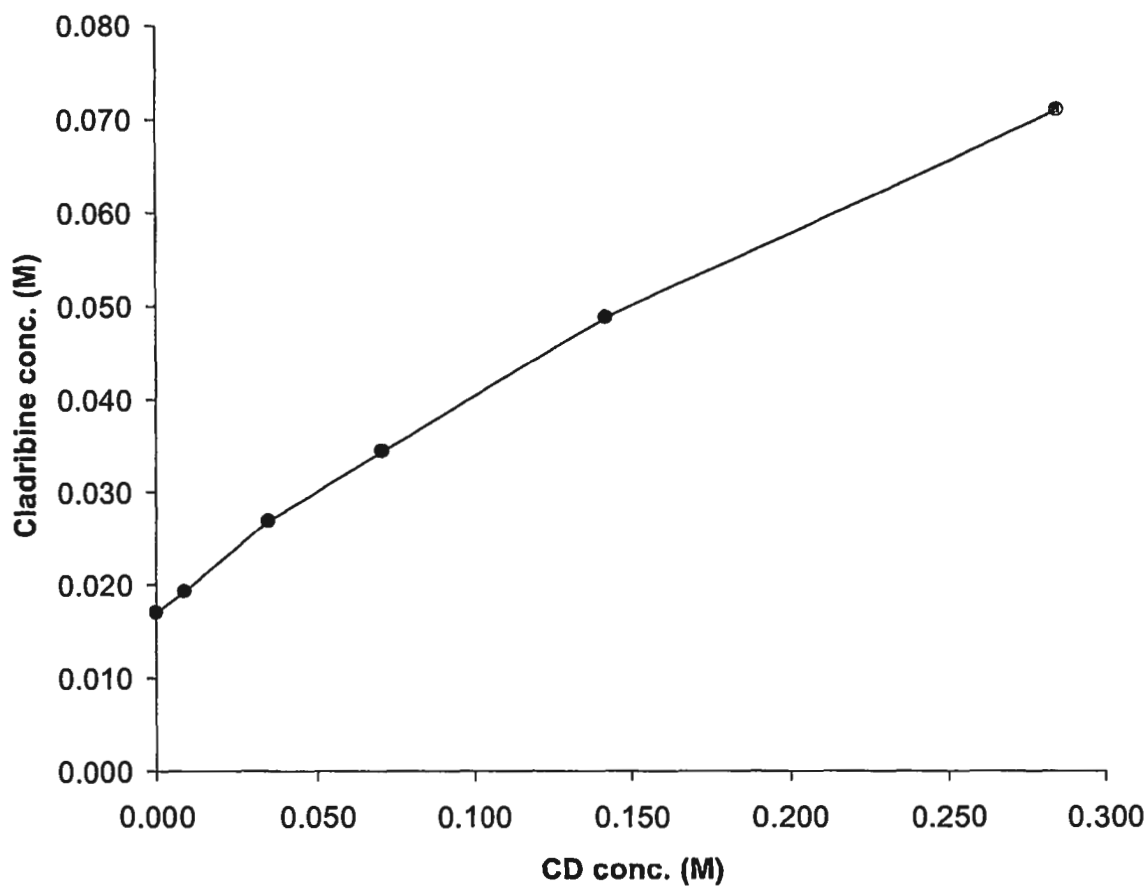
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided are compositions of cladribine and cyclodextrin which are especially suited for the oral administration of cladribine.

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## ORAL FORMULATIONS OF CLADRIBINE

## CROSS-REFERENCE TO EARLIER APPLICATIONS

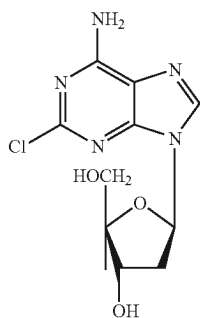
This application is the U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/US2004/009387, file Mar. 26, 2004, which claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/458,922, filed Mar. 28, 2003; of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/484,756, file Jul. 2, 2003; and of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/541,247, filed Feb. 4, 2004, all of said applications being hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entireties and relied upon.

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a composition comprising a complex cladribine-cyclodextrin complex formulated into a solid oral dosage form and to a method for enhancing the oral bioavailability of cladribine.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cladribine, which is an acid-labile drug, has the chemical structure as set forth below:



It is also known as 2-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine or 2-CdA. Cladribine exists as a white, nonhygroscopic, crystalline powder, consisting of individual crystals and of crystalline aggregates.

Cladribine is an antimetabolite which has use in the treatment of lymphoproliferative disorders. It has been used to treat experimental leukemias such as L1210 and clinically for hairy cell leukemia and chronic lymphocytic leukemia as well as Waldenstrom's macroglobulinaemia. It has also been used as an immunosuppressive agent and as a modality for the treatment of a variety of autoimmune conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease (e.g., Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis) and multiple sclerosis (see e.g., J. Liliemark, *Clin. Pharmacokinet*, 32(2): 120-131, 1997). It has also been investigated, either experimentally or clinically in, for example, lymphomas, Langerhan's cell histiocytosis, lupus erythematosus, chronic plaque psoriasis, Sezary syndrome, Bing-Neel syndrome, recurrent glioma, and solid tumors.

Oral delivery of drugs is often preferred to parenteral delivery for a variety of reasons, foremost patient compliance, or for cost or therapeutic considerations. Patient compliance is enhanced insofar as oral dosage forms alleviate repeated health care provider visits, or the discomfort of injections or

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associated with oral administration versus parenteral administration costs gain importance. The cost of parenteral administration is much higher due to the requirement that a health care professional administer the cladribine in the health care provider setting, which also includes all attendant costs associated with such administration. Furthermore, in certain instances, therapeutic considerations such as the need for a slow release of cladribine over a prolonged period of time may be practically met only by oral or transmucosal delivery.

However, to date the oral delivery of cladribine has been plagued by low bioavailability (see, e.g., J. Liliemark et al., *J. Clin. Oncol.*, 10(10): 1514-1518, 1992), and suboptimal interpatient variation (see, e.g., J. Liliemark, *Clin. Pharmacokinet*, 32 (2): 120-131, 1997). See also, A. Tarasuik, et al. reporting poor absorption and pH dependent lability (*Arch. Immunol. et Therapiae Exper.*, 42: 13-15, 1994).

Cyclodextrins are cyclic oligosaccharides composed of cyclic  $\alpha$ -(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) linked D-glucopyranose units. Cyclodextrins with six to eight units have been named  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -cyclodextrin, respectively. The number of units determines the size of the cone-shaped cavity which characterizes cyclodextrins and into which drugs may be included to form stable complexes. A number of derivatives of  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -cyclodextrin are known in which one or more hydroxyl groups is/are replaced with ether groups or other radicals. These compounds are thus known complexing agents and have been previously used in the pharmaceutical field to form inclusion complexes with water-insoluble drugs and to thus solubilize them in aqueous media.

Recently, Schultz et al., in U.S. Pat. No. 6,194,395 B1, have described complexing and solubilizing cladribine with cyclodextrin. The Schultz et al. patent primarily addresses the problems inherent in previously described aqueous formulations of cladribine, particularly for subcutaneous and intramuscular injection. Schultz et al. have found that cladribine is not only significantly more soluble in aqueous media when formulated with cyclodextrin, but also is more stable against acid-catalyzed hydrolysis when combined with cyclodextrin. The latter finding is taught to be of particular benefit in the formulation of solid oral dosage forms, where the compound would normally undergo hydrolysis in the acid pH of the stomach contents. Schultz et al. do not appear to have described any actual work in connection with solid oral dosage forms. In fact, they describe only one method of preparing the solid dosage form, which is a melt extrusion process, in which the cladribine and cyclodextrin are mixed with other optional additives and then heated until melting occurs. Furthermore, the broad dosage ranges of 1 mg to 15 mg of cladribine and 100 mg to 500 mg of cyclodextrin listed in the patent suggest no criticality to the particular amount of cyclodextrin to be present with a given amount of cladribine in a solid oral dosage form. Indeed, these dosage ranges include many combinations which may be suitable as mixtures but not for complex formation. For example, a ratio of 1 mg of cladribine to 500 mg of cyclodextrin contains too much cyclodextrin, so that the drug would not readily leave the complex and achieve its therapeutic function. On the other hand, 15 mg of cladribine and only 100 mg of cyclodextrin would not be enough to complex that amount of cladribine.

The Schultz et al. patent does suggest improving the stability of cladribine in oral dosage forms by combining/complexing it with cyclodextrin, but does not suggest improving the drug's oral bioavailability by such means; in fact, the patent does not describe or suggest a method for enhancing or maximizing the bioavailability of cladribine from a solid oral

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Many workers have studied the solubility of specific drugs in water containing various concentrations of selected cyclodextrins in order to demonstrate that increasing concentrations of cyclodextrins increase the solubility of the drugs at selected temperatures and pH levels, as for example reported in the Schultz et al. patent. Phase solubility studies have also been performed by various workers in order to elucidate the nature of the complex formation, for example, whether the cyclodextrin and drug form a 1:1 complex or a 1:2 complex; see, for example, Harada et al. U.S. Pat. No. 4,497,803, relating to inclusion complexes of lankacidin-group antibiotics with cyclodextrin, and Shinoda et al. U.S. Pat. No. 4,478,995, relating to a complex of an acid addition salt of (2'-benzyloxycarbonyl)phenyl trans-4-guanidinomethylcyclohexanecarboxylate with a cyclodextrin.

While Schultz et al. teach that a cladribine-cyclodextrin complex improves the water solubility and acid stability of cladribine, the art does not suggest how to maximize or enhance the benefits of the complexation in terms of bioavailability and interpatient variation when the complex is to be administered in a solid oral dosage form.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It has now been found that amorphous cyclodextrins can be combined with cladribine to form a particularly advantageous product which can be incorporated into a solid oral dosage form. This product is a complex cladribine-cyclodextrin complex, and the solid oral dosage form containing it improves oral bioavailability and/or achieves lower interpatient and/or intrapatient variation of the drug.

The present invention provides a complex cladribine-cyclodextrin complex which is an intimate amorphous admixture of (a) an amorphous inclusion complex of cladribine with an amorphous cyclodextrin and (b) amorphous free cladribine associated with amorphous cyclodextrin as a non-inclusion complex, and a pharmaceutical composition comprising said complex, formulated into a solid oral dosage form. Thus, the cyclodextrin itself is amorphous, the inclusion complex with cladribine is amorphous (and is preferably saturated with cladribine) and the free cladribine which forms the non-inclusion complex is amorphous.

The invention also provides a method for increasing or enhancing the oral bioavailability of cladribine comprising orally administering to a subject in need thereof, a pharmaceutical composition comprising a complex cladribine-cyclodextrin complex which is an intimate amorphous admixture of (a) an amorphous inclusion complex of cladribine with an amorphous cyclodextrin and (b) amorphous free cladribine associated with amorphous cyclodextrin as a non-inclusion complex, formulated into a solid oral dosage form which maximizes the amount of cladribine in the inclusion and non-inclusion complexes.

The invention further provides for treatment of conditions responsive to administration of cladribine in mammals by administering thereto the composition of the invention. Use of cladribine in the preparation of the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention for administration to treat cladribine-responsive conditions and for enhancing the oral bioavailability of cladribine is also provided.

Still further, the invention provides a process for the preparation of a complex cladribine-cyclodextrin complex which comprises the steps of:

(i) combining cladribine and an amorphous cyclodextrin in water at a temperature of from about 40 to about 80° C. and

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(ii) cooling the resultant aqueous solution to room temperature; and  
(iii) lyophilizing the cooled solution to afford an amorphous product.

In yet a further aspect the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process comprising the steps of:

(i) combining cladribine and an amorphous cyclodextrin in water at a temperature of from about 40 to about 80° C. and maintaining said temperature for a period of from about 6 to about 24 hours;

(ii) cooling the resultant aqueous solution to room temperature;

(iii) lyophilizing the cooled solution to afford an amorphous product; and

(iv) formulating the amorphous product into a solid oral dosage form.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

A more complete appreciation of the invention and its many attendant advantages will be readily understood by reference to the following detailed description and the accompanying drawing, wherein the sole FIGURE is a graphical representation of the results of a phase solubility study where various molar concentrations of hydroxypropyl- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin (HP $\beta$ CD) are plotted against various cladribine molar concentrations, with (●) representing the data points obtained for complexation under conditions specified in EXAMPLE 2 below.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Throughout the instant specification and claims, the following definitions and general statements are applicable.

The patents, published applications, and scientific literature referred to herein establish the knowledge of those with skill in the art and are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety to the same extent as if each was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference. Any conflict between any reference cited herein and the specific teachings of this specification shall be resolved in favor of the latter. Likewise, any conflict between an art-understood definition of a word or phrase and a definition of the word or phrase as specifically taught in this specification shall be resolved in favor of the latter.

The term "inclusion complex" as used herein refers to a complex of cladribine with the selected cyclodextrin wherein the hydrophobic portion of the cladribine molecule (the nitrogen-containing ring system) is inserted into the hydrophobic cavity of the cyclodextrin molecule. This is often referred to simply as a cyclodextrin complex of the drug.

The term "non-inclusion complex" refers to a complex which is not an inclusion complex; rather than the hydrophobic portion of cladribine being inserted in the cyclodextrin cavity, the non-inclusion complex is formed primarily by hydrogen-bonding of the hydroxyls and amino group on "free" cladribine, (i.e. cladribine not in the inclusion complex) to the hydroxyls on the exterior of the cyclodextrin torus (e.g. in the case of hydroxypropyl- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl and hydroxyl groups on the glucose rings). This is a more loosely-held association than an inclusion complex.

As used herein, whether in a transitional phrase or in the body of a claim, the terms "comprise(s)" and "comprising" are to be interpreted as having an open-ended meaning. That



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